

## 2005 EQIP Ranking Worksheet

### Clinton County, Indiana

Instructions: Applicants for the 2005 EQIP funds should complete this worksheet, answering all questions to the best of their ability. Definitions of terms may be found at the end of the worksheet. All questions apply to the acres being offered for contract.

The maximum point total is 500. The maximum for each section is shown in red parentheses. Points assigned to each question are shown in parentheses ( ) after the question. Points are given for "Yes" answers.

The score from this ranking will be combined with the score from an automated ranking based on statewide concerns, then the combined total score of your application will compete with other EQIP applications from around the state.

Enter Applicant's Name >>>>>

FSA Tract Number(s) >>>>>>>

Today's Date >>>>>

#### I. Management (70 points possible)

- 1) Do you wish to use EQIP funds to implement a Resource Management System (RMS) which addresses all resource concerns on the offered acreage, using EQIP funding? (70 points)

#### II. Soil Quality (110 points possible)

Do you want to use EQIP to reduce soil erosion to below the tolerable soil loss (T) on:

2a) All offered acres? (110)

2b) One or more critical areas? (70)

- 3) On cultivated land meeting "T", will EQIP be used to increase post-plant soil surface cover by at least 30%? (40)

#### III. Water Quality (240 points possible)

- 4) Do you want to use EQIP to reduce the amount of potential water pollutants moving off site? (40)

*If "no", move to Section IV.*

- 5) Does the offered acreage border or contain a perennial drainageway? (40)

- 6) Will EQIP be used to change land use from row crop to permanent vegetative cover on HEL or floodplains? (20) *If "no", move to 8)*

- 7) Will this change remove HEL or floodplains from agricultural production? (20)

- 8) Will EQIP be used for improvements on an active livestock operation? (80)

- 9) Will EQIP be used to eliminate point sources of water pollutants on the offered acres? (40)

#### IV. Wildlife & Forestry (80 points possible)

- 10) Do you want to use EQIP to improve or create wildlife habitat on the offered acres? (30)

- 11) Do you want to use EQIP to improve or create woodlands on the offered acres? (50)

TOTAL (500 possible) 0

## **Definition of terms**

critical area - a part of a field that is eroding at a high rate and requires special management

perennial drainageway - a ditch, creek, stream, or river that carries water year-round and is mapped as a perennial drain in the Soil Survey of Clinton County

HEL - "Highly Erodible Land"; as determined by USDA according to National Food Security Act of 1985  
If offered acreage has no HEL determination, one must be performed prior to EQIP ranking

floodplain - For local ranking purposes, land will be considered a floodplain if the area includes a soil map unit that is described as a floodplain soil or "occasionally flooded" in the Soil Survey of Clinton County

tolerable soil loss (T) - the maximum rate of erosion at which a given soil can sustain productivity.  
Site-specific soil loss rates will be estimated by NRCS.

point source - if a pollutant can be traced back to a specific point of generation or discharge, it is a "point source" pollutant. Examples of point sources on farms are abandoned wells, tile outlets, storage tanks, and degraded manure storage facilities.

Resource Management System (RMS) - a level of management that treats all natural resource concerns on a unit of land to NRCS quality criteria. Once an RMS has been implemented, the degradation of all major resources (Soil, Water, Air, Plants, Animals) should be eliminated or reduced to a sustainable level, in accordance with NRCS criteria for the treatment of a given concern. A Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) is a type of RMS conservation plan.